

Dear Parents

The Newsletter comes out slightly later than usual which allows to include not only some news of recent successes, but also to provide latest news in some constantly changing situations. In the pages which follow, along with articles on numerous events and initiatives at JCoSS, we include the formal announcement of our new Senior Student Leadership Team, and the exciting news that for the second year running JCoSS has scooped 2 awards of the 4 available for secondary schools at the PaJeS Jewish Schools Awards. Ms Moses won in the 'Emerging Teacher' category, and Ms Robinson won in the 'Deputy/Assistant Head' category. We are delighted by their success, proud of Mrs Lethbridge for making the shortlist in the SEN category, and proud too of the many JCoSS staff who were nominated in all categories. Thank you to all who have joined in the spirit of these awards at which JCoSS so fulsomely represented.

I am grateful too to all parents who have responded to the Curriculum and School Day consultation. The clear majority were in favour of most or all of the changes but (of course!) many excellent and pertinent points were made which we are now considering as we decide the final shape of the curriculum. We hope to publish this in the next couple of weeks. Some respondents asked for clarification on media reports of expansion at JCoSS and I will now take this opportunity to do so.

You will all be aware of the shortage of places at Jewish schools for the numbers of children who want them. The problem has been growing in recent years, with demand outstripping supply by about 30 places, which led Yavneh College to offer additional places last year. JCoSS will this week offer 210 places (rather than the usual 180) to children in the current Year 6, which means that there are enough places across the community's schools for all who are expected to want one. We have been able to include these offers in the normal admissions process which means that parents' preferences can be fully taken into account and that the extra places go to the record number who have put JCoSS as first preference. The school building is of course busy and full already, but we are able to accommodate these extra students by keeping the portacabins for a little longer, in addition to the new classrooms under construction in Wing D. We will also of course recruit the additional staffing required too, and existing students need have no fears for the quality of their own education.

The picture from 2018 is more complicated, but we are playing our part in discussions about how to meet future demand. We know that the current uncertainty is agonising for the parents of primary school children, and we take seriously our duty to the community which has bought into the JCoSS vision so generously. You can be confident that we will weigh it all up with the best interests of our students and families at heart, and we will make a success of whatever transpires.

Patrick Moriarty
Headteacher

Student Senior Leadership Team

We are delighted to announce the new Student Senior Leadership Team (SSLT).

- Samuel Danker: Headboy
- Ruth Launer: Headgirl
- Talia Fenton: Deputy Head
- Martha Slater-Senior: Prefect (focusing on Mental Health Awareness)
- Max Simmonds-Senior: Prefect (focusing on Interfaith, community and outreach)
- Nathan Anders-Senior: Prefect (focusing on reward structures)

We look forward to working with them in their new roles.



Lloyd Dorfman CBE visit

On Wednesday 18th January, businessman and philanthropist Lloyd Dorfman came in and spoke to the Sixth Form. He started his own business at the age of 24, founded the foreign exchange company Travelex, and among other things, is currently Deputy Chairman of the Community Security Trust. He spoke about working his way up in the business world and gave us advice on how to tackle the challenges that he overcame in his line of work, advice that was certainly welcomed by the future entrepreneurs among us.

Mr Dorfman's key, overarching message was the importance of change in business, and learning to adapt and take advantage of the constantly changing markets and the new technology and opportunities that we are lucky enough to have access to. He explained that obstacles will be inevitable but persistence and taking risks are the key to success. As one of JCoSS's original donors, Mr Dorfman stressed the significance of giving back to the community, aiding others to start up their own projects through whatever means possible. On behalf of the Sixth Form, we were all grateful to welcome such a distinguished guest into our school and to listen to his engaging talk, which definitely gave us valuable advice for the future.



Ruth Launer and Samuel Danker
Head Girl and Head Boy

JCoSS Key Dates – Second Half of Spring Term 2017

Date	Time	Description
Mon 6 th & Tues 7 th March	Evening	Les Miserables Student Production
Tues 7 th March	All day	Year 10 immunisations. Timetable as normal.
Thurs 9 th March	All day	Fast of Esther. Timetable as normal
Fri 10 th March	All day	Purim in school. Further details to be e-mailed.
Sun 12 th March	All day	Purim
Thurs 23 rd March	4.30 – 7.30pm	Year 8 Parents' Evening
Tues 28 th March	All day	Rosh Chodesh Nisan
Thurs 30 th March	4.30 – 7.30pm	Year 12 Parents' Evening
Wed 5 th April	2.05pm	School ends at 2.05pm for end of term.

School closes at 1.30pm on all Fridays until the end of the Spring Term.

Pesach (Passover) is 11th to 18th April

Students return to school on Thursday 20th April at 8.30am (Week 1)

Pictures from the Jewish School Awards



Ms Moses: Best 'Emerging Teacher' in a Jewish secondary School

Ms Robinson: Best 'Deputy/Assistant Head' in a Jewish Secondary School



Nicole Ronson presents Ms Robinson with her award

Year 7 Student of the Month

Congratulations to Sophie Greenberg 7R for being awarded my 'January Student of the Month'. Sophie has proved to be one of the most positive and cheerful students in the year group. She never fails to be polite and courteous to students and staff alike and clearly enjoys attending JCoSS.

Well Done and Thank you Sophie!
D. Hoskin YLC year 7



6th Form Science Society

The Sixth Form Sci Soc ventured into town to hear Professor Daniel Dennett speak at the College of the New Humanities. Professor Dennett is a world leading psychologist and philosopher and has been one of the key voices in the philosophy of mind over the last 40 years.

He spoke about the similarity between the transmission of human culture with the way biological organisms evolve and propagate themselves from generation to generation. He gave us much to think about and we look forward to Sci Soc's continued growth.



Our new **Scholastic Book Club** is up and running! Go to <http://schools.scholastic.co.uk/jcoss> to browse the latest books and order online. For **every £1 you spend** on this month's Book Club, **our school will earn 20p** in Scholastic Rewards.

IJE Update

Life has been very busy in the IJE department with a burst of January activity. Our second Yom Tzedakah took place, led by Year 9 this time who managed to raise over £600 for our school charities (see photos below). Fundraising ideas are growing ever more creative with each Yom Tzedakah and we are looking forward to seeing what Year 8 come up with next. Learning how to plan and run a fundraising activity is a life skill which is being well developed at JCoSS and competition is hotting up to see which house will be able to raise the most.

The Alan Sennitt Leadership programme is underway with a group of Year 10 students taking part in leadership and community action projects with a group of mixed faith students from a diverse range of schools. We are proud of how well our students have performed in the seminars and look forward to the community action programme they will be rolling out later in the year.

Holocaust Memorial Day was marked in school with a series of assemblies and a student-created display in the Heartspace. Students considered the Holocaust within the context of other genocides and broadened their awareness of the current crisis in Syria.

We were delighted to welcome all the Zionist youth movements to school to promote their summer camps and programmes. We had a lively fair in the Heartspace. If you would like more information about options for summer programmes please contact the IJE team through the school office.

Year 7 held their annual shabbaton at the lovely Kingswood centre in Kent at the beginning of February. Over 60 students took part in a 3 day activity holiday challenging themselves with a wide range of outdoor activities. As Shabbat approached the activity team left and the IJE team took over, bringing Shabbat to the Kingswood centre with loads of singing, chanting, praying, laughing, discussing playing and of course eating. A fantastic and exhausting time was had by all!

Finally – SAVE THE DATE – in a new adventure, we are planning to bring a phenomenal one man show to JCoSS at the end of the Spring Term. Danny Braverman's solo show tells the funny and moving story of how he discovered the lost art of his Great-uncle Ab. *Wot? No Fish!!* is an extraordinary story about love and art, history and fish balls. It was described by the Times as 'a small gem'. As well as a performance in school, we will be having a performance for family and friends of the school in the evening of Tuesday 4th April at 7pm. More details to follow.



Jack Petchy Speak Out Challenge

Hannah Bentwood, 10B was chosen to represent JCoSS in the Jack Petchy Speak Out Challenge, after competing against several other JCoSS students in an in-house competition. Hannah then went on to compete against 20 other schools earlier this month. She spoke powerfully about the topic of social media and the impact it has for people to create a 'perfect life'. The message was very relevant to the world we live in today, highlighting the shocking reality of social media. She was thoroughly engaging with her audience and was a real credit to the school.

You can watch her 2 and a half minute speech at <https://youtu.be/IXWzXoEJwa0>



JCoSS entry to the Saatchi Gallery Schools Prize

We are delighted that Daniella Kay in Year 13 has entered the Saatchi Gallery Schools Prize and her amazing artwork is currently online on the Saatchi website.

Saatchi will be creating a high profile exhibition of the top 20 shortlisted art works at the Saatchi Gallery in May 2017

Where they will give £5,000 to the winning secondary school, and the £1,000 to winning pupil.

Good luck Daniella from everyone here at JCoSS.



CAREERS FAIR MARCH 22 – PARENTS WE NEED WE NEED YOU!

Preparations are now well underway for the forthcoming Careers Fair but we still urgently need volunteers for key career areas including **medicine, accountancy engineering and music**.

In previous years the Careers Fair has focused on students in Year 9 and has ended at lunchtime. This year for the first time we are opening it up to our Year 12 students (ages 16-17) in the afternoon.

The event takes the form of an exhibition where participants will be given stands' in the main hall. Students will be free to visit whichever career area they are interested in hearing more about.

So far we have representatives from the worlds of acting, journalism, property, construction, motor mechanics, fashion, childcare, hairdressing, army, banking, veterinary science, law, psychology and graphic design.

Both year groups are considering their future plans – Year 9 are choosing their GCSE option subjects this year and Year 12 students will be looking at opportunities in terms of university courses and apprenticeships/employment.

Input from people who are actually working in career areas students are interested in is invaluable in helping progress their career thinking and decision-making.

We do hope you will be able to join us and understand that a full day may be more than you can offer, in which case, you could join us for **either** the morning **or** the afternoon session?

If you are able to help, please contact JCoSS Careers:

Clare Raff: claff@jcooss.barnet.sch.uk

Helen Lewis: hlewis@jcooss.barnet.sch.uk

JCoSS Parents' Poland Trip - a few places are still left

There are still a few spaces left on the **parents** trip to Poland from the 19th-20th March. This short trip to Krakow will include a visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau, to Schindler's Factory and the Jewish quarter of the Medieval city.

To secure your place, and for more details, please contact Marcel Manson at West End Travel.

(Marcel.manson@westendtravel.co.uk).



Last year's trip

6th Form Charity Event

6th Form students united as one last term in a series of fundraising events in support of Max's Foundation raising £660. Activities ranged from Chanukah card making for the elderly, karaoke, netball, chess and cupcake making which were then sold in the heartspace.

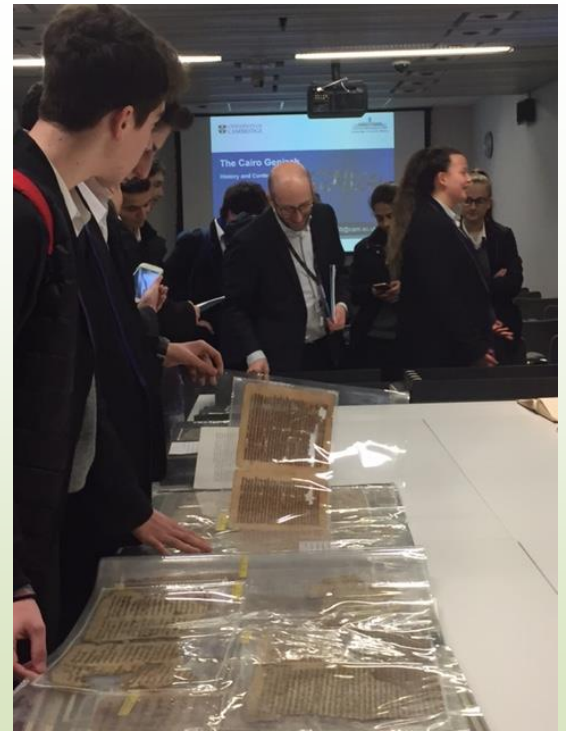
There was also a five aside football competition which proved very popular, especially amongst the upper cohorts. Twelve teams entered, and even a few teachers got involved. Luke Bodnar, Year 13, who helped to organise the football competition said "it was an amazing opportunity for the sixth form to get together as a year group in aid of such a great cause".



Trip to Cambridge University Library

The Ivrit Department ran a fascinating trip to the Cambridge University Library where students were privileged to be able to meet researchers working on the Cairo Geniza project and to be able to handle documents from the Geniza. Many students were surprised at how easy it was to read and identify the ancient texts and fascinated by the stories and insights which came from this incredible collection. The day continued with a visit to the University's Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern studies, where they experienced first-hand what it would be like to study Hebrew at Cambridge.

A hugely successful and innovative day out for our Hebrew scholars.



Year 7 Activity Residential Trip

The Year 7 Activity Residential was a fun trip that everyone absolutely loved. This year we went to Kingswood in Kent. There were different types of activities that everyone could try. Each time we checked the timetable to see what we were doing, there were always more things that I was super excited about. The teachers and staff did a fantastic job preparing everything and sorting out the activities, and I hope they had as much fun as we did! The highlight for us both was the 3G swing – where two people were attached to a suspended metal bar, while all the others in the group would grab the rope and quite literally, pull them to a very high height. Once there, you'd be released and free fall down, swinging to a stop. The night-time Zipwire and campfire, complete with songs and marshmallows, were other firm favourites.

After a fun-filled 2 days, we settled down for Shabbat with the Israeli Scouts. The Friday night meal was so much fun, everyone merging together for a pluralist Shabbat, everyone with their own way of doing it. During Saturday, we had a series of relaxing team activities, learnt some new games and really got to know each other. It was definitely an experience I'll never forget!

I made loads of new friends, and got closer to my current ones. I can't wait for the next trip!

By Lottie Russell (7W) & Josh Bruck (7N)





JCoSS faces The Chaser !

Paul Sinha from ITV's Quiz Show "The Chase"

Comes to JCoSS for the 2017 JPA Quiz with a difference !

Hosted by comedian Bennett Arron

Sunday 19th March at 7pm - 10pm



Join us in the School Hall for an evening of
Great Fun and Laughs, Quality Prizes and Delicious Food

Tickets £19.99 each or

Tables £180 (max 10 people) or Tables £216 (max 12 people).

Please ask friends outside of JCoSS - Adult and 6th Former Event

Click link to buy tickets <https://billetto.co.uk/quiz-2017>



Queries to Elaine Pitter - jcoSSpa@outlook.com

Dear Parents

The JCoSS Parents Association is delighted to announce our next exciting event - **The JPA Quiz 2017**.

We have secured the talents of well-known celebrity, **Paul Sinha**, from ITVs Quiz Show "The Chase".

Hosting the evening will be **Bennett Arron** who is an award winning writer and comedian who, amongst other things, has supported **Ricky Gervais** on tour.

Last year everyone had a wonderful time and the event sold out quickly. The food was plentiful and the JPA raised £3,000 for the school.

Supper is included in the price of the ticket which is great value for money. There is a new feature this year - we will have an alcohol licence so you will be able to purchase wine and beer on the night. It is going to be a fantastic night with lots of laughter and great prizes, so put the date in your diary and book your ticket now by clicking on the link - <http://www.billetto.co.uk/quiz-2017>

Adults and 6th Form only. Queries to jcoSSpa@outlook.com

Do you have what it takes to Face the Chaser?? Find out on Sunday 19th March!

I look forward to seeing you there.

Elaine Pitter

Chair - JCoSS Parents Association